

**May` 21, 2025**

8:45 – 9:45 AM via MS Teams with 90 attendees online

## **1. APG Activities (Bengu Bostanci)**

### **- Recent Highlights:**

- Athletics:
  - Thank you to our team parents who organized snacks and beverages for the athletes
  - Tennis, Ultimate, Track, Tennis and Rowing were our spring sport offerings
  - Congrats to the Boys Rowing team for making it to Nationals!
  - Thank you to Ayesha for coordinating these efforts with team parents
- Arts:
  - “Matilda” was an outstanding musical. Our performers are incredibly talented!
  - Tami and Brenda provided amazing support in conjunction with our EPS arts faculty, including food, flowers and gift baskets
- Faculty and Staff Appreciation:
  - We honored our faculty and staff the week of May 5<sup>th</sup> with an elevated snack bar featuring a chocolate fountain, a slushy bar, gift baskets and Trophy cupcakes
  - Thank you to Ruchi, Michelle and Leela for spearheading these efforts
- Class Rep Coordination:
  - Our reps found new and exciting ways for families to connect and socialize this year
  - Check your WhatsApp messages for upcoming socials as a few remain
  - Thank you to Adam and Julia for their leadership in guiding our class reps

### **- Upcoming Events:**

- Memorial Day Holiday: No school on 5/23 or 5/26
- Senior Thesis Symposium: 5/28 at 11:10 AM
- Junior IS / IP Symposium: 5/30 at 11:10 AM
- Tech Academic Teams Showcase: 5/30 from 3:30 – 4:30 PM
- MS Social 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grades: 5/30 at 4:15 PM
- MS Social 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Grades: 5/30 from 6 – 8 PM
- All School BBQ: 5/31 from 11 AM – 2 PM
- Arts Fest: 6/3
- MS Finals: 6/4-6/6
- US Reading Days: No school on 6/4 – 6/5 for upper school only
- US Field Day: 6/4
- US Finals: 6/6, 6/9-10
- MS Field Day: 6/6
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat: 6/10 – 6/11
- Directing Projects: 6/10
- Senior Reception: 6/10
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Continuation: 6/12 from 10 – 11:30 AM
- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation: 6/13 at 5 PM

### **- APG Exec Member Vote:**

- Vickie led a vote to approve the APG Executive Team Roster for 2025-2026, which passed unanimously.

## 2. Head of School Update (Sam Uzwack)

### - **Gratitude and Volunteer Contributions:**

- The connection between home and school is vital because research shows that students do better academically when there is this alignment
- Sam is filled with gratitude for the phenomenal work the APG does to deepen the connection between families and EPS
- At this point in the year, we're "landing the plane". It's a paradox between being very present yet excited about the next chapter in students' academic and social journeys.
- Sam presented the Alice Strong award today. This is the highest award EPS bestows to its volunteers and recognizes leadership and dedication.
- This year's winner is **Julia Owens**! Julia has volunteered at EPS since 2018, and this is sadly her final year. Her guidance to the class reps has been invaluable. She has unparalleled organizational skills and is a joy to work with.
- In the coming year, we'll welcome ~90 new students. The APG helps us to integrate and engage new families.
- We had a record number of student applications this year. Our reputation continues to grow, largely because of word-of-mouth testimonials from our families.
- Sam's ethos is "show, not tell". One of our key innovations this year was the small group discussions at Admissions events led by our parents and guardians who answered questions from prospective families and students. This is a prime example that underscores how connected and involved our families are.

### - **PSH (Permanent Supportive Housing):**

- From the outset, our strategy has been to have a seat at the table
- We are committed to ensuring the safety of our community and campus by building partnerships and influencing conversations. Vickie Baldwin has been dogged in her efforts to drive this. She has worked with the city, county, provider, operator and our neighbors within and around the Linbrook complex.
- We have had significant impact and continue to move the needle of our agenda. Our neighbors are appreciative of the leadership we have shown, and this common purpose has brought us closer together as a community.
- The current plan is to begin partial resident occupancy in the fourth quarter of 2025, but this timeframe is likely to slip. A best practice is to begin by moving a small number of individuals in, setting the culture and expanding the population from there after ironing out the kinks.
- When we have new information, we will share it with you transparently as always.

### - **Building Acquisitions and Program Innovations:**

- We own buildings 12, 10, 1, 2, 6 and 5 as shown on the map Sam projected on screen
- We have pressing goals which require more space:
  - Expanded parking
  - A suitable sports court/field
  - Program innovation that will allow us to achieve our vision in which students hit the ground running post-graduation with real-world experience under their belts
- Buildings 5 and 6 ("EPS Impact Center"):

- Building 6 will be a conduit to the *natural world* where students can think deeply and critically about sustainability in a “living lab”. Students are spearheading our efforts to restore the creek. In the process, they are also learning project management skills, such as how to obtain a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers.
- Building 5 will be a conduit to the *professional world*. We are actively using this building and have leased it at a reduced rate to a start-up called Colleague AI, a spinoff of UW. Colleague AI is focused on building educational tools that leverage AI. Rather than developing these tools in a cubicle, why not develop them in an actual school environment in partnership with students? In exchange for lower rent, the company will teach seminars to our students such as “Ethics and AI”. Kids who want to know what a start-up looks like can pop in at any time.
- Buildings 1 and 2: We’re leasing to Avocado Preschool
- Future acquisitions: We are financially stable and in the perfect position to be bold in our real estate acquisitions. We are able to pivot without posing any financial risk to our school or its assets.

### 3. Q&A:

- What’s happening with buildings 10 and 12?
  - The previous building 6 tenant moved to 10. 12 is on the market to lease.
- Are the new buildings only for upper schooler use?
  - Building 6 is for grades 5-12, whereas Building 5 is geared toward 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders have the same schedule, and we want to reimagine their experience to prepare them for life outside of EPS.
- Is the intention to expand the campus so we can increase the student body?
  - No, it’s about program expansion. 500 students is our sweet spot, and we don’t intend to grow that number in the foreseeable future. We also have 125 adults.
- Why did the math subject name change?
  - We’re calling it Mathematical Thinking 1 – 3 instead of MS 5-6 because we are moving away from tying the subject matter to a specific grade. The math curriculum is not changing – it’s merely a course name change. We will still place children in math classes that are appropriate for them regardless of their grade level.